

Berkshire Local History Association



**Newsletter No 114
January 2016**

Berkshire Local History Association
Newsletter

Editor: John Chapman

©2016 The authors and The Trustees of the Berkshire Local History Association

PRINTED BY:- Reprographics Department,
Whiteknights House, University of Reading,
Reading, Berkshire RG6 6AH

Distribution: Dr Margaret Simons

Website www.blha.org.uk

We ask all member societies and institutions to provide a short report on their activities for inclusion in the Newsletter. We are always interested in brief news reports on other matters and notice of events likely to be of interest to our members.

A word limit of 400/450 words is in place to allow for as many of you to contribute as possible, please note that when space is limited, contributions over this amount will be subject to the editorial pencil!

Contributions should be e-mailed to:- newsletter@blha.org.uk and arrive not later than the 15th of the month preceding publication (January, May and September) Word, Text or pdf copy is acceptable, but keep it simple and please do not use spaces or tabs to lay out presentations. Photographs and images should be sent separately

Alternatively material may be posted to the Editor: John Chapman, 5 Cecil Aldin Drive, Tilehurst, Berks, RG31 6YP

Cover picture - The Fred Potts VC Memorial (see page 9)

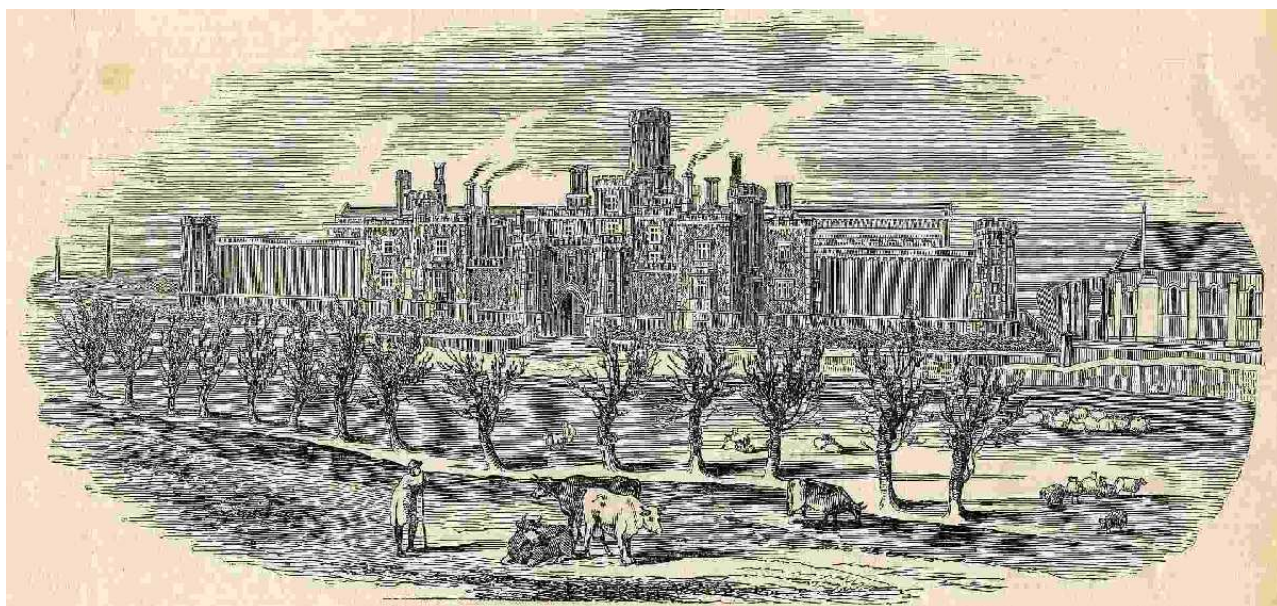
Chairman's Corner

For family reasons, I haven't been able to give as much time to local history as usual this year – and for the first time, had to miss a BLHA committee meeting! Nevertheless, no-one is indispensable, and things have moved on.

I'm pleased to be able to report that work on the schools gazetteer project, toward which the Association has promised to give a grant, is now well advanced. There is still some research work to be done, but the bulk has been completed, and the parish-by-parish lists of schools are being written up. In the New Year, it will be my job to begin putting together the bibliography, which seems appropriate since by training I am a professional librarian. The resulting volume will be comprehensive, thorough, and detailed, a model of its kind, and will be published by the Berkshire Record Society, probably in a couple of years.

During the last few months, the government has changed its mind over the future of the Reading Gaol buildings. Included among them is the classic Victorian gaol, as designed by Scott and Moffatt, opened in 1844, and now listed Grade II. First we were told that the buildings were "mothballed" in case they were needed again, and now in November we are told that they have to be sold off to housing developers. So it seems doubtful that they will ever be included in the "Abbey Quarter" development, for which the Borough Council is seeking Lottery funding – even though the prison buildings sit on top of the east end of the abbey church. On the other hand, if there is to be development on the land around the Victorian gaol, presumably there will have to be archaeological investigations. This will doubtless lead to speculation as to the whereabouts of the remains King Henry I, who was buried before the High Altar.

There is still general gloom over the future of services provided by central and local government, those affecting local historians – record offices, libraries and museums – included. Reading has just come to the end of its public consultation on libraries. And now I hear that Slough Central Library is to move to smaller premises, with less space for local studies. What we used to call "local history libraries" have traditionally been a part of public libraries, and a part that no-one else covered. They have always been the Cinderella of library services. The fears are now that



An 1844 view of Reading Gaol

collections will become less accessible. This could happen because of a reduction in floor space, a reduction in opening hours, or there not being the staff on hand to enhance, preserve and exploit the collections, and help people find what they need.

I attended a couple of Heritage Open Days events in Reading in September – one of them at Watlington House, where the new garden was looking splendid, and the other in a former warehouse on an industrial estate. It was run by a group of young people with the unpromising name (as far as I was concerned) of “Readipop.” They had been researching Reading’s cinema history, they had discovered a lot of good material, and they put on an interesting show. Afterwards I was able to suggest a few items in Reading Central Library which they ought to see – especially a couple of books of reminiscences, where people were remembering the old cinemas, in one case from before the First World War. As well as documentary research, the researchers were interviewing senior citizens, to gather their reminiscences. I tried to impress on them, as I have on other groups, the importance of writing up the research, and getting it published and preserved. The danger is that it will fall into a black hole as a physical object, or evaporate into the ether, as a website. The project, Lottery funded, comes to an end in June. Impressed by their enthusiasm, I (rashly) promised to help them edit the material for publication, and told them that the BLHA holds funds to get worthwhile research published.

In October I met another group, part of the Katesgrove Community Association. Katesgrove is a part of Reading by the River Kennet which was a major industrial area, until fairly recently. They were having a session on the old pubs of Katesgrove, in a pub called The Hook and Tackle – which was my local in the 1980s when it was called The Tanners Arms. Again, I was surprised by the amount of information they had dug up. They put on a most entertaining presentation, and again, I tried to emphasise the importance of writing it up, and getting it published. Of course, the research and discovery are the “fun” parts of the project: the writing up, checking, and re-checking, finding the money, finding a publisher or printer, selling, accounting for the money received, etc., are quite a different task.

I’m coming round to the conclusion that it’s high time I took my own advice, and took steps to ensure that the three books sitting on my computer see the light of day. I’ve been working on them since I was a teenager, and they contain lots of information about my native town not recorded elsewhere – dialect, old sayings, songs, children’s games, superstition, folk history, etc., etc. Since the area of interest is in a completely different part of the country. I shall say no more. Hopefully, in 2016, I shall achieve at least some of my New Year resolutions!

As you may have noticed, Dave Osborne has been adding the 2016 diary dates to the BLHA website. If your society holds talks, and they’re not already included, please could you send your programme to webdesigner@blha.org.uk? We’d like the list to be as comprehensive and useful as possible, and it may bring in visitors and new members to your society.

A book containing the three excellent talks we had at the Symposium last March is in preparation.

The committee is still intending to run a study day in conjunction with the Berkshire Record Office and Reading Central Library, and we’re also considering a study day in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Local History Association. All I can say for the moment is, watch this space!

The AGM this year is something different again. Our friends at the Longworth and District History Society have invited us to hold the meeting at Southmoor Village Hall, and have arranged a private visit to Kingston Bagpuize House and gardens, with tea and cake included. This is a corner of “old” Berkshire I haven’t visited before, and I’m looking forward to it, and to meeting old friends and new, as usual.

David Cliffe, Chairman, B.L.H.A.

Words from the Editor

We have decided to stick with the font size we had to adopt in September for space reasons as no-one complained they found it hard to read and we did get a lot more in. However we do need to chase up some of the Societies that haven't sent in a report for ages - we would love to hear from you. But many thanks to our regulars, especially for the photos which are very useful to fill out space if we run short of copy.



We would also like to have a few more book reviews. If you have come across a new book that might be of interest to other members please let us know and say something about it even if only title and author.

John Chapman

The Annual General Meeting

A Message from your Secretary

The Annual General Meeting, will be held at Southmoor Village Hall, Southmoor, Oxfordshire OS13 5DU on Saturday 12th March 2016 from 11:00 to 16:00,

In 2016 we are proud to take our Annual General Meeting to the Ancient County of Berkshire, ie a district which, prior to the 1974 boundary changes, was part of the Royal County, but which is now part of Oxfordshire. We hope as many members as possible will take the opportunity to visit this beautiful part of the Ancient County. We are very grateful to Longworth and District Historical Society for hosting the 2016 AGM.

This part of Berkshire is now administered by Oxfordshire County Council so, for many who live in the rest of the county, it seems like alien territory, but BLHA retain strong links with all parts of ancient Berkshire and particularly with anyone interested in our mutual heritage. We recognise these historic relationships by inviting membership from Berkshire, both modern and ancient. We exist to encourage education, training, research and publication on all aspect of local history covering Berkshire, both pre- and post-1974. For this reason, it is a special treat that we will be journeying to Longworth for our next AGM.

We recognise that this will be a slightly longer journey for most of our members in the southern or western parts of our region. Public transport, while not impossible, is slightly more awkward. However, we hope that with advance planning and car-pooling we will have our usual excellent turnout. The slightly longer journey will be well worthwhile.



Kingston Bagpuize House

We will continue to keep the business part of our meeting as brief as possible, so as to allow more time to enjoy the social and cultural aspects of the day.

Longworth have organised for us a private visit to Kingston Bagpuize House. This will incur extra charges. However, your Executive Committee have agreed to subsidise this visit.,

The cost to members for the AGM, lunch, visit to Kingston Bagpuize House, and tea and cake, will be £8. Please complete the booking form included with the Newsletter, or complete the online version at www.blha.org.uk. Alternatively, bookings may be made via the Secretary, Ann McCormack at secretary@blha.org.uk

Last year, we had an excellent AGM and Symposium at St Laurence's Church, Reading, which included three excellent presentations, bell-ringing, Morris dancing and a Reception, all free to members. This year, there is a slight increase in our usual cost but we will have yet another very special day in a unique setting, mingling with fellow local historians. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Ann McCormack

Miscellanea

Luke Over, MBE

Many members will remember Luke, who died recently. He studied archaeology at London University, and this was his main interest. He served as Excavation Officer for the Maidenhead Archaeological & Historical Society from its beginnings in 1960, at a time when road and housebuilding called for endless rescue archaeology. In 1966, with Prof. Slade of Reading University he began a 5 year investigation into the medieval manor house of Spencers Farm, Maidenhead. He was Hon. Secretary of the Berkshire Archaeological Society for 20 years and became a Vice-President.

Luke was a great communicator. He wrote some 20 books and booklets, and contributed over 300 carefully researched articles on local history and archaeology to the Maidenhead Advertiser. It was for this that he was awarded the MBE.

Brian Boulter

Palmyra

Not exactly Berkshire but maybe of interest to a lot of Berkshire people interested in the past. We have been reading in the news recently about the mindless vandalism that the Jihadists have been



wreaking upon Palmyra. Already most of the temples and the colonnade have gone, but a group in Oxford are trying to produce a three dimensional digital image of the ruins and are appealing for anyone who has photos taken in peaceful times to make them available. 3D digital imaging relies on having the same object scanned from different directions so even two photos otherwise identical but taken from points ten feet apart are very valuable. If you do have any, then can you contact Conan Parsons at palmyra3dmodel@outlook.com.

The Temple of Bel at Palmyra

Berkshire Historic Environment Forum

This year's Forum took place on Saturday 31st October in the Barn at Purley on Thames. Some 27 people attended the event and they enjoyed a series of well-presented lectures and lots of discussion. The meeting started with a presentation by Lyn Davies of Pangbourne Heritage on *The History of Pangbourne*. He presented details of people who lived in and around Pangbourne. He started with Francis Weldon, Lord of the Manor 1580, but focused on the Breedon Family who owned Pangbourne from 1671 until 1894. He then discussed the lives of some of the people who lived in Pangbourne and farmed the surrounding lands.

This was followed by a talk by Andrew Hutt on the *Archaeology of Pangbourne* that showed that people had been visiting and living in Pangbourne from the Palaeolithic until the Norman invasion in 1066, and explained how they may have used the land.

Janet Hurst, from the Goring Gap Local History Society, then explained how *Goring and Streatley*, two communities on opposite sides of the Thames, developed from medieval times until the end of the 19th century. They developed as separate communities because until the 1937, when the bridge across the Thames was built, the only link between them was a dangerous ferry. As a result Goring developed an enterprising community while Streatley, owned by the Morrel family, was inhibited in its development.

This was followed by a talk by Trevor Coombs on the *Roman road from Silchester to Dorchester*. He reiterated some of the material he presented in his paper in the Berkshire Archaeological Journal in 2011, but also showed lots of new details resulting from fieldwork he undertook during the summer.

After lunch Andrew Hutt gave an overview of the Society's fieldwork capabilities and a report of the geophysics survey at Caversham Park in the summer.

This was followed by a ramble through *The archaeology of Knowl Hill* by Ann Griffin. Starting with a report on Knowl Hill Common and the surrounding cottages, she presented details of the Roman and medieval sites along the A4 towards Maidenhead, and then returned to Knowl Hill to look at the Roman sites to the west at Canhurst and Weycock Hill.

The day finished with an exciting presentation by Martin Labram, explaining the work he is doing to develop for the Society a *Geographic Information System* based on a combination of the QGIS opensource software, maps freely available from the Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey and others, and archaeological datasets provided by the Society's members.

Side discussions at the meeting have identified potential joint projects between the Society and local history groups and maybe local councils.

All in all an excellent day.

Andrew Hutt

Railway Memorabilia

Reading Museum's plans for a major railway themed exhibition during the 2016 Reading Year of Culture are gathering momentum. The exhibition will trace the growth and impact of railways since the opening of the Great Western Railway Station at Reading in 1840.

The museum is appealing for anyone who has collected railway related souvenirs and memorabilia to include in the exhibition. This could be anything from a train spotter's notepad to workman's shovel or a daily commuter's first season ticket.

The exhibition is already gathering support from the local rail industry and educational organisations. In July, Great Western Railway agreed to deliver a high profile promotional campaign for the exhibition and UTC Reading is on board as the project's education and learning partner.

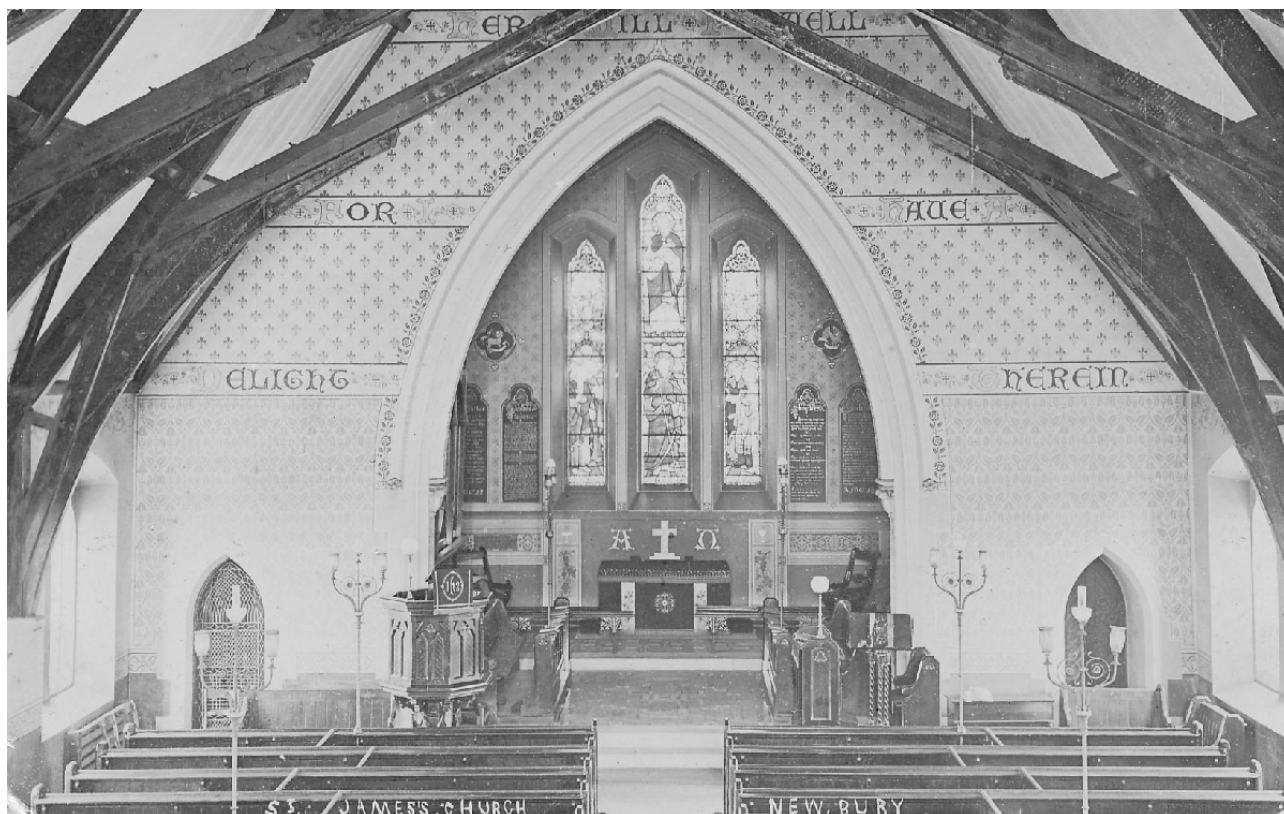
Overseeing the project, Museum Manager, Matthew Williams added: “Reading’s railway’s heritage is a huge story and well represented in the social history collection at the museum, but we would really like to discover more personal stories from Reading people who have used or worked on the railways. If people have kept souvenirs, we’d love to see them. We want the exhibition to focus on the people’s history of Reading’s Railway.”

If people have items suitable for the exhibition, please contact: Brendan Carr at Reading Museum on 0118 9373548 or curator@readingmuseum.org.uk

Brendan Carr

St James' Newbury

Do any of our readers recognise this church?



The photograph appeared on a postcard, which is now in the collection of Reading Central Library. The caption reads: “St. James Church, Newbury,” but as far as I can see, there never was a St. James’s in Newbury.

There isn’t anything on the back of the postcard to help – no date of posting, or publisher’s name. In the photograph, the text, painted over the chancel arch, which isn’t very clear, reads: “Here will I dwell, for I have a Delight Therein,” a verse from Psalm 132. The tablets on the east wall have the texts of the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles’ Creed.

The collection at the library covers the whole county – though some areas are better represented than others. The arrangement is by the old boroughs, rural districts, and civil parishes. I started cataloguing them with Abingdon, many years ago, and have now just completed Wantage. What remains is Windsor – which fills me with dread, because there will be so many views of the same thing, but slightly different! After that, there will be a lot of tidying up to do, and the completion of the scanning of the images, which always lags behind the cataloguing.

If you’d like to see what’s already on there, you can do so on line, on the Reading Library

Catalogue. If you put “reading library catalogue” into your search engine, and click on “reading-hip.epixtech.co.uk,” which is usually the first option you’re given, you’ll get the search box. Then you put in a search term, and you’ll see what the library has, with thumb-nails in the case of images. You can search by place, street-name, personal name, or subject. You double-click on the images to enlarge the thumb-nails, and you can also zoom in and out. Anyone who doesn’t use the Internet can still go into the library in the time-honoured way, and ask to see the box of illustrations for a particular place.

David Cliffe (e-mail: chairman@blha.org.uk)

Spotlight

On - The Eton Wick Local History Society

Ten years ago, in 2005, the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II, Eton Wick’s Village Hall Committee, together with the village’s History Group Committee commemorated the event by inviting the veterans of that war who were currently resident in the village to a Celebratory Lunch in the Village Hall. It was likely that about 130 of Eton Wick’s men and women had served in the war but in the intervening years a number had moved away or died and so there were 53 ex-service personnel at that lunch, which was also attended by the then Mayor of Eton, Douglas Hill, the then Bursar of Eton College, Commander Andrew Wynn RN (Retd.), and Lt. Col. M. L. Wilcockson who was then the CO of Eton College’s Combined Cadet Force, all of whom gave very moving speeches. Copies of a book containing records of their life and service were given to the veterans.

A viewing of an amateur film which had been made of the Celebratory Lunch prompted the History Group Committee to plan a 70th Anniversary ‘Recall’ event to enable those veterans who still lived in the village to have an opportunity to see the film of that very memorable occasion. Formal invitations were sent to the remaining 17 of the original 53 veterans and 7 were able to attend; invitations were sent to relatives of the deceased, where appropriate; and the evening was also open to the History Group’s regular audience; in total, approximately 80 people attended the event in the Village Hall on 8th July and they stayed to enjoy a splendid buffet of refreshments generously provided by Mrs Margaret Everitt and her son, Andrew.

A pull-out insert titled ‘Recall 70 years on’ will be distributed in the next edition of Eton Wick’s ‘Our Village’ newsletter; it will contain a commemorative article by Frank Bond, together with the text of Commander Wynn’s very moving speech at the 2005 Lunch, followed by a message from him which was read out after the film was shown: he referred to the debt we all owe to the veterans and to the spirits of their comrades; and he saluted Eton Wick’s surviving veterans; his message ended with the Royal British Legion’s Exhortation : “They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”

New Books and Reviews

Reading 1800 to the Present Day:

The Making of Modern Reading,

by Stuart Hylton. Amberley Publishing, 2015, £16.99.

This is not the kind of traditional town history which proceeds in chronological order. Instead, each chapter looks at Reading from a different point-of-view over the last 215 years. We have “Reading and the Motor Car,” “Office Town,” “Sickness and Health,” “Seats of Learning,” etc., etc.

Each chapter could in itself be the subject of a book, and so, with the average chapter taking up 11 pages, each can only be a summary – and very good summaries they are, too. They are the kinds of summary that are only possible after a great deal of research. Mr. Hylton already has eight books on Reading to his name, with titles such as “A Reading Century,” “Reading at War,” and “Reading: the 1950s,” which must have stood him in good stead. On top of this, his first-hand knowledge of the workings of local government in Berkshire, as a strategic planner, over many years, must also have been a distinct advantage. By and large, what you might expect to find is there, plus a bit more – the facts, the dates, the references, and a reasonable index.

Everyone who knows the town will have quibbles, which will vary according to personal interests. For instance, in my case, in the chapter on “Travel and (Public) Transport,” he mentions the short-lived Bee Line buses – but not the Thames Valley Traction Company.

I would have liked a chapter on public utilities – water, mains drainage, gas and electricity. They are mentioned in passing, but I would have liked something on the power station in a shed on the island by County Lock, which was superseded by the monster with the smoking chimneys by the Thames between the bridges. I would have liked the story of the rival gas companies, and water-tower on Mill Lane, and the ingenious way in which the sewage was pumped in the main sewer up the Kennet to Manor Farm using turbines. The Manor Farm sewage works and “Whitley Whiff” are mentioned, but not the short-lived Caversham sewage works on Amersham Road.

Then the subject of how Reading’s citizens were employed seems to have been missed. Something about commuting, out of and into Reading, would not have gone amiss, and while we have mentions of Huntley and Palmer’s, Simonds’ Brewery and Sutton’s Seeds, other large employers are not mentioned. There were brick and tile works, Huntley, Boorne and Stevens, the Reading Ironworks Company, Pulsometer Engineering and the Great Western Railway’s Signal Works in the town. How they declined, and newer “service” and computer-based industries took over would have made a good chapter.

Picking holes in other people’s books is, of course, all part of the enjoyment they give. I liked the fact that the references were there on the page with the text, though I wish they had always gone back to the primary source, rather than saying “quoted in” such and such a book. I also wish the book had been better proof-read. I was a bit dismayed to find the name of Lord Reading given as Rufus Isaac, when he was Rufus Isaacs.

Nevertheless, for anyone with an interest in the town, this is a really good read. I sat there time and time again, thinking “Oh, yes – I’d forgotten that,” and sometimes, “Oh, that’s what it happened.”

The price, £16.99 for 160 pages, is a bit steep. The illustrations, well reproduced, are presumably to a large extent the reason for the price. They’re hardly necessary to enjoying the book, but I suppose Amberley know what sells books. I do think, though, that since we have the illustrations, the author might have referred to them in the text.

Reading local historians will be impatiently waiting for the new volume on the history of Reading from Joan Dils, which is likely to be a very different kind of history. In the mean time, I can thoroughly recommend this latest volume from Stuart Hylton.

David Cliffe.

The Register of John Blyth, Bishop of Salisbury 1493-1499

edited by David Wright

Wilts and Swindon Record Society, ISBN 978-0-901333-45-2

The registers of the Bishops of Salisbury have hitherto been published by the Canterbury and York Society so this is a welcome newcomer to the scene. John Blyth served as bishop for a relatively short period of time and was not noted for making any significant changes. He did however preside over a series of heresy trials in Reading, Sonning and Ramsbury in 1499 and the transcripts give an interesting insight into both the language at the time and the basis of religious discontent regarded as heresy. Much of the episcopal work of the Diocese was carried out by Augustine Church, Abbot of Thame and Titular Bishop of Lydda, who acted as Suffragan. Of especial interest is a copy of a document from the Pope confirming Henry VI as the rightful king of England which has never been published before. As well as the lists of ordinations and appointments to benefices there is a collection of documents recording transactions within the diocese. Somewhere in the 403 items recorded is a reference to pretty well all the churches of Berkshire and many of their incumbents so it is a valuable source of new information for anyone looking into their church history.

Copies can be obtained from the Wilts and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham SN15 3QN for £20 plus £2-80 P&P

John Chapman

Great War Centenary

The period January to May 1916 was a relatively quiet one, so there are not many centenary celebrations taking place, at least not in Britain although France will be remembering the Battle of Verdun starting in February.

October saw the unveiling of the memorial to Fred Potts VC in Reading's Forbury. The project to raise the money has been running for five years and it was great to see the final result which has met with acclaim from many quarters. Not the least of these quarters is the Abbey Quarter Project which got its grant from the lottery fund and which should greatly increase the footfall passing the Potts memorial.

Windsor and Maidenhead Council will be launching their *For King and Country* website in the early part of the year. The content has been compiled by many local volunteers who have researched their war memorials and scoured the local papers of the period for contemporary news stories. The result is a most impressive collection of information and memories. Watch out for the announcements.

May I draw your attention to Dr Kate McDonald's talk on 8th February at Reading Central Library. It is on '*Seeing Disability in the First World War*' and will give you an insight into a topic rarely mentioned. - (see *Opportunities* page 24)

Articles

The History of Lloyds Bank in Pangbourne

By Ian Crimp

With acknowledgements to Lloyds Banking Group Archives and Mr.D.L.Barber

In the not too distant past Pangbourne had four major banks in the village and in view of the recent closure of HSBC, Barclays and previously Nat West banks I feel it is timely to record the history of Lloyds Bank Pangbourne.

A conveyance dated 8th.January 1896 transferred Woodborough House, Pangbourne, from Mr.S.A.Hill of East Grinstead to Mr.D.H.Evans (Founder of the London Store) of Shooters Hill, Pangbourne, for the sum of £730. The property comprised a house and 34 poles of land and was occupied by Mr.Child. It was formerly in the occupation of Thomas Deare. The site was at the corner of Reading Road and The Square adjoining Howarth House (now Howarth Lodge). Woodborough House was set back level with Howarth House and both had gardens fronting on to the Reading Road.

Before the end of the century Mr.Evans had built the range of shops with accommodation above, which today includes Lloyds bank. Sellwoods took the premises at 1, Reading Road and the accommodation above.

Mr.Evans eventually ran into financial difficulties and in 1917 Legal & General Assurance Society foreclosed on their mortgage. Lloyds Bank purchased the freehold title of 1, Reading Road on 15th.March 1920 paying £1,200 to L&G and £150 to the tenants, Sellwood Brothers. Sellwoods were allowed to continue to occupy half the ground floor on a 7 year lease with effect from 20th.December 1920 at rent of £30 p.a.

The branch opened on 1st December 1920. The clerk-in-charge was my father Mr.F.H.Crimp who had transferred from Bromley branch at a salary of £295 p.a. At that time Pangbourne was under the supervision of Reading branch where the Manager was Mr.F.C.Webster. From that time my parents together with family moved into the Bank House above the branch.

Total expenses in 1921 were £632 which included salaries of £403. By the end of 1922 there were 90 current accounts, 78 deposit accounts and 25 savings accounts. Average lending totalled £4000 whereas in the previous year it had been below £1000.

In addition to my father there were two clerks. Heating was by an anthracite stove. The first strong room was built in 1923 and required many alterations to the branch, including an iron stairway to give access to the flat, backyard and coal store, a telephone was installed, number Pangbourne 83. The strong room was installed by John Lewis & Co. of Reading. The cost of the Ratner strong room door was £14.7.4

The branch had started to make profits in 1925 - £75 for the half-year to June and £130 to December. The business continued to grow and in 1928 there had to be a major re-build taking in Sellwoods shop, where the lease had expired. The new teak frontage was put in at that time and a new layout for the public space was implemented including a Manager's office.

Following steady expansion my father F.H.Crimp was appointed Manager on 1st.March 1929. Goring-on-Thames sub branch (now TSB) was opened on September 15th.1930 under the supervision of Pangbourne. A clerk and watchman (guard) travelled daily by train to Goring.

Following the outbreak of War, many London firms were evacuated to the district, including Tate and Lyle. Other notable organisations also opened accounts, this included The Nautical College (as it was then known), Sparta Estates, Tidmarsh and St.Andrews School. This brought much more

work to the branch. My Father was unfit for military service and continued to run the branch amid wartime difficulties. There had been 5 clerks employed before the war and this increased to 14 by 1941.

There were constant staff changes, due to Ministry of Labour allocations which gave rise to a heavy burden of training. In 1943 a junior girl aged 15 left to join the Land Army, as she said she found banking very difficult and could not read the customers' signatures!

My father retired on 31st May 1945 due to ill health, having been with Lloyds bank for 38 years, 25 of which were spent at Pangbourne branch. He was succeeded by Mr.H.B.Savill from Malvern branch who was then succeeded by Mr.A.Johnson from Hythe branch. Mr.W.H.Bean became manager in June 1954.

A radical change occurred in September 1958, when machine accounting replaced hand written ledgers for current accounts. Mr.Bean moved to Surbiton branch in August 1959 and was replaced by Mr.R.A.Pain.

In 1963 after a year of detailed planning, the Manager's flat was taken over for office use. The street door to the flat (on the right of the fascia), was removed but the staircase was retained to give staff access to the Manager's office, machine room and upstairs offices. The Manager's room on the ground floor was removed to make way for a lift. This gave room to enlarge the counter with 3 till spaces for cashiers. The Manager, secretary and machinists moved to their new accommodation on the first floor. The lift gave access to the Manager and a hoist was installed to carry ledger tins, vouchers etc. to the first floor.

In December 1965 Mr. Pain moved to Dover branch and was replaced by Mr.N.A.Clifford from Warwick branch. In 1972 Mr.G.C.Catmull succeeded Mr.Clifford. In 1972 Goring-on-Thames became a full branch after 42 years under Pangbourne. Goring is now part of TSB. In December 1971 Pangbourne branch was listed as of special architectural or historic interest; at that time plans had to be made for substantial re-building. The upper floors had originally been designed for domestic use only. The weight of stationery, machines and ledgers was putting considerable stress on the building. A steel beam with stanchions either side, together with new foundations was installed, together with air conditioning. The contract price with McCarthy Fitt of Reading was £34,935!

Mr.Catmull retired in 1984 and was succeeded by Mr.D.L.Barber from Langley branch. Mr.Barber was the last Branch Manager before responsibility was taken over by Reading Market Place branch.

I now tell an anecdotal story from the war years. During WW2 steel bars were placed across the glass windows of the bank for extra security. Apparently one day, in the early hours of the morning, my mother awoke to hear the sound of sawing. Believing that somebody was trying to break into the bank she woke my Father saying she could hear this noise. He quickly dressed and brandishing a suitable implement rushed downstairs. He discovered a cow that had escaped from the meadows was rubbing its horns on the metalwork!!

Ian Crimp

A Centenary Celebration

A unique event took place in the county on Sunday, August 2nd 2015.

On July 31st, 1915, began the first motor bus service in Berkshire, when the British Automobile Traction company inaugurated a route from Maidenhead via Twyford to Reading and then on to Streatley. To initiate the service, 5 Leyland buses were transferred from Barnsley to their base in Caversham Road in Reading. The venture was a success, and the network gradually expanded, so

that by 1920 the bus operations in the area were renamed as the Thames Valley Traction Company, with a head office in Bridge Street, Maidenhead, the Maidenhead – Reading route becoming service 1. In 1931, Great Western Railway invested in the Thames Valley Traction Company, and so the bus services that they had run as feeders to the train service were also added to the Thames Valley network.



HE12 in the garage

Events to mark the centenary of motor bus

services in the Thames Valley area took place on the closest Sunday to the anniversary date, starting with a cavalcade of vehicles in Bridge Avenue, Maidenhead, along the A4 through Twyford to Reading. The buses taking part in this not only included many former Thames Valley buses but also the only surviving bus formerly used by the Great Western Railway, dating from 1927, a former Thames Valley bus of the same age, and – even more amazingly – Leyland bus HE12, one of those that had been there 100 years earlier, in 1915. Those three, along with a former Thames Valley bus dating from 1930, and a London B type bus built in 1914, were ten put on display on the forecourt of Reading Station – the site for many years of the Thames Valley terminal in the town. During the afternoon, HE12 was taken to Caversham Road outside the original Reading garage (now occupied by Carter's). The London bus was representative of the many that went to France and Belgium during World War 1 – and travelled along the A4 across Berkshire on their way to the docks at Avonmouth.

The other buses – dating from 1946 to the 1970s - then operated free bus services to Maidenhead (and shorter journeys to Charvil or Twyford) and Streatley from Station Hill. These proved very popular, with thousands of passengers carried during the day, who were able to re-live (or discover first hand) what travel by bus was like in previous decades – actually participating in a historic event.



Bristol single-decker GJB 254

Those who would like to know more of the history of the various bus companies within Berkshire will find details of the various books available by visiting www.paullaceytransportbooks.co.uk. Those who would like to discover more about the Thames Valley & Great Western Omnibus Trust, who organised the event, can do so by visiting their webpage at www.tvagwot.org.uk.

Peter Delaney and Paul Lacey

Society News

Berkshire Archaeological Society

Berkshire Archaeological Society has had a energetic year with projects that have filled our diaries and offered many attractive opportunities for enthusiasts to join us during 2015. The Society's objectives are to advance the education of the public in the fields of archaeology and history, in the past and present County of Berkshire.

Looking back we have maintained the monthly meetings with a variety of speakers that help us to learn about past material culture and the growing use of science to achieve this. Lectures, that explain the use of cores augered to give information of climate conditions and land use, have inspired us to acquire an auger and to use it to investigate at our excavation sites. We are planning the publication of a new journal, 'Land of the Atrebates – Roman Berkshire' in the New Year and the annual four-day Spring Tour in Cornwall. The monthly study group has turned its attention to Saxon Berkshire, where every aspect of life is under consideration.

In the past year, we have tackled geophysics projects at a farm in East Berkshire, a deserted medieval village at La Hyde between Purley and Pangbourne and, at the invitation of DJ, Mike Read, at the grounds of BBC Caversham Park. We have been invited to excavate there in 2016. New members have been trained to use equipment, we have studied timber-framed houses, made visits both to Silchester Insula III, where we were welcomed by Professor Fulford and the environs project excavation at Pond Farm. Members also visited the Neolithic Henge in the Vale of Pewsey where Amanda Clarke is leading the other Reading University excavation project. Two visits were made to Oxford to walk the medieval town wall, and to enjoy a conducted tour of the Grey Friars area excavation. Lastly a tour, of the most amazing excavation preceding the development of a vast new housing estate at Thame, revealed occupation from the Neolithic to Saxon times. A lecture explaining this is promised in the New Year.

We meet monthly in Reading, where we welcome new members and invite local societies to work with us on joint projects, when the sharing of expertise will help us achieve our aims for the Society. Look at our website for information.

Ann Griffin.

Goring Gap Local History Society

The new programme of meetings in September got off to an unfortunate start when our speaker had an accident and was unable to come. Committee member Mike Hurst stepped ably into the breach with an excellent talk on railways in World War I, entitled '*Tracks to the trenches*'. The railways took supplies, armaments and men to the front and brought the sick and wounded back to Blighty. They played a crucial role in the war.

In October we were pleased to welcome back Alan Turton who, in the 800th anniversary year of the document being signed by King John and the barons, told us how it came about and the impact it has had on British constitutional history, right up to the present day. November saw another returning speaker in the guise of Liz Woolley who spoke on *19th century common lodging houses*. Although these places had a bad reputation, they provided somewhere to live for itinerant workers, particularly during the period when large numbers were moving from the countryside to the town.

The Transport History Group visited the wonderful private Beeches 'Himalayan' Light Railway in August, followed by what was billed as a round trip on the paddle steamer Waverley from Bournemouth in September. Due to tides and weather, we were unable to return to Bournemouth and

disembarked at Swanage, returning to Bournemouth by bus! The final outings of 2016 were to Milestones Museum at Basingstoke and the Oxford Bus Museum at Long Hanborough. The programme for next year has yet to be decided but there is no shortage of ideas for places to visit.

Janet Hurst

Newbury District Field Club

Newbury's local history society celebrated its 145th year in 2015 with another successful History Day in the summer and the regular bi-monthly meetings from Autumn to Spring. This autumn we welcomed a variety of speakers: Jane Burrell (former curator of West Berkshire Museum) spoke twice, on both the *History of Speen Church* and on the *Poets of the Somme*; Alex Godden (Archaeological Officer, West Berkshire Council) updated us on *Recent Archaeology in West Berkshire*; local resident, John Hughesdon, entertained us with tales of *The Civic City of London*, (from the point of view of a former Alderman and Sheriff); and the enterprising double act of Capt Andrew French and Brig Anthony Verey from the Berkshire Yeomanry Museum gave an excellent account of the *History of the Berkshire Yeomanry* and the Regiment's Connections with Newbury. A light-hearted quiz on local themes provided the entertainment at our Christmas social. The Club also contributed heavily to the Newbury Town Council's World War One Exhibition in November and to the ongoing activities of the West Berkshire Heritage Forum, and the town council's Heritage Working Group. The coming year will be another busy one; the History Day in early July will focus this year on the Speenhamland area, details will be announced in the Spring. For more information see our website: www.ndfc.org.uk

Phil Wood

Pangbourne Heritage

Since our last report, the Heritage Group has produced a new Walking Guide to the Village of Pangbourne, a leaflet outlining two principal walks in the parish, one through the centre and west of the village, including the Seven Deadly Sins on the banks of the Thames, and the other through the meadows along the Thames towards Purley, and the Pang towards Tidmarsh. It is illustrated by a number of photographs and two maps. The Guide was produced by a small working group headed by Lesley Crimp, the draft being presented at the September Members' Meeting where it was approved. It was part funded by the Parish Council and a local raffle.

Pangbourne was selected as one of the specimens for Berkshire's Parishes a conference at the annual Berkshire Historic Environment Forum in October, our chairman speaking on the History of Pangbourne, partnering that by Andrew Hutt on its archaeology.

The November meeting was devoted to a talk by Sue Hourigan, Senior Conservator at the County Record Office, entitled *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, about the problems for the conservation of photographic and documentary archives. We heard almost more than we wanted to know about bookworms, silverfish, and the perils of heat and damp, illustrated by examples, but with valuable advice on prevention and restoration or recovery from their attacks. In fact, the only problem on which she was unable to help us was storage. Our answer, inevitably, has been in members' houses, especially that of Jane Rawlins, our archivist, coincidentally living in one of Pangbourne's buildings in the West Berkshire Historic Environment Record.

The year ended with a raffle at the Village Hall in the village's Christmas Evening for a test drive in a Lamborghini offered by the car showrooms in the village. Unfortunately the car was sold at the last minute, but they were able to supply an Aston Martin instead which raised £214 for the Group, supplementing the grant from the Parish Council towards the costs of printing the new Guide. Next year's programme is in preparation. We are also starting work on the new Local Listing of

buildings worthy of record by the West Berkshire Heritage Forum. The meetings in future will be at our new venue, Rosewood Hall, Whitchurch Road, near the bridge. They will be at 7.30 on the second Wednesday each month except August.

Lyn Davies

Project Purley

We began our autumn season with a very well received talk by Professor Brian Kemp on the *Royal Abbey of Reading* which encouraged at least one members and probably more to join the Friends of Reading Abbey afterwards. October's speaker was Richard Smith whose fascinating talk on Englefield village encapsulated ten centuries of history and included a rich collection of maps and images. Many thanks to Daphne Spurling of Theale Local History Society for the recommendation. In November we welcomed back Bill King for the second of his talks on '*Walking the River Thames*'. This time he covered the section between Oxford and Reading, which proved too meaty a subject to fit into our normal hour or so speaker slot but despite the over-run Bill held the audience's attention throughout with snippets of local interest, practical tips and a multitude of images. At the end of November the society had a book stand at the village Christmas Market selling copies of its publication *Purley in Old Images* and also books written by two of our members on the history of St Mary's Church, Purley and the history of Huntley's and Palmer's Cricket Club.

In December the Rain or Shine Theatre Company return to Purley with a production of 'A Christmas Carol', hosted by Project Purley. Each performance the society's share of the profits and a leaving collection are donated to a different local organisation, and this time the Reading branch of the Salvation Army has been chosen as the recipient. This is the tenth year we have been hosting performances by Rain or Shine and to date we have raised around ten thousand pounds for local good causes. The society's Christmas party takes place on December 18th with a 'bring and share' buffet, mulled wine and topical quizzes.

Catherine Sampson

History of Reading Society

Policing Berkshire and Reading during World War One was the subject of the September talk. The speaker was Tony Keep a former Thames Valley Police officer; he joined the Berkshire Constabulary, as it was then known, in 1963 and reached the rank of chief inspector before retirement in 1995.

When Britain entered the war in Europe during August 1914 the policing of Berkshire was the responsibility of Berkshire Constabulary and two separate borough forces for Reading and Windsor. The strength of the Berkshire Constabulary at this time was 275 officers they were supported by a first reserve of 71 retired officers on an annual fee; additionally, a second reserve of nearly 4,000 unpaid volunteers was retained. In addition to routine policing duties across the county, the three forces had additional responsibilities connected with the war: Duties in connection with the mobilization of troops for war; making arrangements for the accommodation (billeting) of military personnel; the supervision and surveillance of enemy aliens; to protect transport and public utilities infrastructure.

The police were responsible for the registration of homing pigeons; it was feared that they could be used by agents to transport messages to the enemy. The keeping of pigeons at this time was a popular hobby and in Reading during 1914 officers made 1,160 visits and recorded 5,000 birds. When the war ended in 1918 of the 95 police officers who had served in the military 79 had rejoined the Berkshire Constabulary, 4 were unfit for service because of injury and 12 were either killed in action or died later from their wounds.

The History of Salters Steamers was the subject of the October talk. The speaker was Simon

Wenham who is a part-time research assistant to an Oxford Academic and is on the tutor panel of Oxford University's Continuing Education Department, teaching history. Simon told the meeting that in 1998 he got a job with the company based at its premises by Folly Bridge, Oxford. While employed there he rescued many documents that were being thrown in a rubbish skip; these discarded documents were an invaluable record of the company's history and he began to compile an archive.

The Salter family of boat builders moved their business from London to Oxford in 1858 because of pollution in the river Thames in the capital. Then known as Salters Brothers, they would become one of the largest non-university employers in the city. As well as popularising pleasure boating on the Thames the company continued building boats: including pleasure, racing and military craft. Salters built all the Oxford boats that won the annual Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race every year throughout the 1860s; they supplied the last boat built with a wooden hull to win the race in 1976.

At the beginning of the 20th century the company had a fleet of 700 vessels. In 1905 it built its largest vessel for the Baptist Missionary Society a steamer named the Endeavour; it was used for missionary work in Africa. A dedication for it was held at Folly Bridge before it was dismantled and sent to Africa. Among many eminent customers for the company's boats were King Edward VII, T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) and the author C S Lewis; popular folklore has it that Lewis Carroll first told his story Alice in Wonderland to a party of children cruising on the Thames in a Salters boat. Today, the company is still owned by the Salter family and continues to operate boat trips along the river Thames from Folly Bridge, Oxford it also has offices in Reading and Windsor.

The History of Reading in the 1950s was the subject of the November talk and the speaker was Stuart Hylton. Stuart is a local author who has lived in Reading more than 30 years and penned over 20 books on historical subjects.

Stuart's recent book *Reading in the 1950s: rationing to rock music* was the inspiration for the talk about this period of significant change for both Reading and Britain. Despite the war being over for five years, rationing of foods and consumables was still widespread: eggs, petrol, sugar and tea were rationed until 1954. Many manufactured goods such as motor cars, television sets and vacuum cleaners were only available for export to earn the government precious American dollars. Housing was another scarce resource: the borough council had embarked on a housing building programme before the war, however, the halt to house building for the war's duration had led to an acute housing shortage, also, the shortage of materials and skilled labour forced the council to erect many pre-fabricated dwellings made in factories by unskilled labour.

The town's first supermarket (John Quality) opened at 59, Broad Street in 1951; for the first time frozen food was available for those who owned refrigerators. Young people began to emerge as a distinctive consumer group; these "teenagers" wanted their own distinctive fashions and music often influenced by American trends. By the decade's end the town had expanded in all directions with new housing, both council and privately built in Southcote, Tilehurst and Woodley. The University continued to grow with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opening new buildings at Whiteknights Park.

The History of Whiteknights Park, Reading was the subject of the December talk; the speaker was Joan Dils, the Society's president. Whiteknights was conveyed to the Marquis of Blandford, George Spencer Churchill, in 1798 and thus began an intense period of activity as he transformed the park into one of the most celebrated ornamental gardens in England. In 1817, on the death of his father, he became the fifth Duke of Marlborough. George spared no expense in realising his dream; the grounds with a wealth of magnificent trees he beautified everywhere. He erected a fine house for himself which overlooked an ornamental lake crossed by several bridges; one built of stone in the

neo-classical style survived until the 1960s.

The park was divided into three parts: the landscaped parkland, the botanic gardens and the wilderness. The landscape park was the fashion at this time; its purpose to create stunning vistas of rolling countryside different from the more formal gardens of earlier times. The botanic garden contained many rare and expensive plants including magnolia and rhododendrons. The wilderness contained a grotto, rustic pavilions and much statuary.

In 1819 George commissioned artists Mr and Mrs Hofland to produce a series of drawings of the estate's attractions; only 50 volumes were made one of which is in Reading Central Library; this is the only visual record of the park's appearance at that time. In that year, as a consequence of his profligacy, his debts were £600,000 and, eventually, the estate was sold as six lots at auction. The mansion was demolished in the 1840s and replaced with smaller Victorian villas some of which survive among the modern buildings of the University.

For Christmas our chairman, David Cliffe, produced a greetings card, also, committee members Vicki Chesterman and Joy Pibworth decorated a Society themed Christmas tree at Abbey Baptist Church, Reading where the meetings are held. In October, our 2016 calendar was made available following on from the success of our first calendar in 2015.

Sean Duggan

Shinfield & District Local History Society

In September we had a talk by Graham Bilbe on “*The Story of Toy Trains*” using examples from his collection to illustrate the various developments. The earliest trains were pull-along toys but live steam engines appeared later in the 19th century. Marklin, a German company, devised a scheme of track gauges, designated ‘1’, ‘2’, ‘3’ and ‘4’ but by 1900 the smaller gauge ‘0’ had been introduced to cater for the increased popularity of toy trains. In England, towards the end of the 19th century, W J Bassett-Lowke initially imported trains from Marklin before later producing his own live steam models. In 1920 Frank Hornby produced his first toy train which was assembled much like Meccano. By the 1920’s gauges larger than ‘0’ were largely discontinued. In 1926 trains powered directly by mains voltage electricity were introduced but the inherent dangers soon prompted the use of reduced voltages. The first true-to-type train by Hornby was introduced circa 1930, followed in 1938 by Hornby Dublo electric trains using the smaller ‘00’ gauge. Other manufacturers mentioned included Rovex (later Triang) and Mettoy (later Corgi). The evening ended with Graham and one of our members running some ‘0’ gauge clockwork trains around a small circle of track; the perfect end to a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

In October we discussed our participation in a project being run by Shinfield St. Mary’s Church to commemorate WW1. The speaker at our November meeting was Dr Margaret Simons who gave a talk titled “*From Belford Regis to Biscuit Town*”. This was a natural follow-on to her previous talk on the life of Mary Mitford and began with Miss Mitford’s description of a journey from her home in Three Mile Cross to Reading (Belford Regis in her stories). At the start of the 19th Century the town covered an area measuring just one mile in any direction and had a population of fewer than 10,000. Industries included sail cloth weaving; pin, rope and twine manufacture; tanning; brick making and iron making. By 1841 weaving and pin, rope and twine manufacture had ceased but boot and shoe manufacture had been established.

Arrival of the railway in 1840 stimulated growth of the town with establishment of new major industries including Simonds brewery, Suttons Seeds, Huntley and, brick and tile making and printing. By 1841 the population was just under 19,000 and as it continued to grow the town struggled to cope with the increasing sanitation problems. Life expectancy of town dwellers was 5

years less than for those living in the countryside. Treatment of the sick improved with the opening of the Royal Berkshire Hospital in 1839, but only for those who could afford it; the poor were treated at the workhouse infirmary. Both water supply and drainage were inadequate with overflowing cesspools and water for domestic use being extracted from the River Kennet near drainage outfalls. Following the setting up of the Urban Sanitary Authority in 1872 both water supply and drainage were gradually improved. By 1900 the town measured 3 miles in any direction and was much changed from that which Mary Mitford first knew.

Our programme of talks for the first quarter of 2016 is:

Tuesday 12th January: AGM followed by “*Vanished London*” – by Tony King

Tuesday 8th March: “*Home Front Reading 1914-1918*” – by Dr Margaret Simons

George Taylor

Swallowfield Local History Society

In September we dipped into local History to hear Ann Done give us her memories of living in ‘*Girdlers, the House*’ which is one of the oldest buildings in Swallowfield. The facts and stories she had gleaned and collected made the evening very personal and so interesting.

We had a change of speaker in October and were delighted to welcome Inderpal Dhanjal who has led the ‘*The Legacy of Valour*’ project: ‘India’s contribution to the WW1 and the Aftermath’ which was exhibited in the Reading Museum. It is a fascinating story of what India rendered in terms of Men, Money & Material during WW1 and what was the impact of that in India economically, politically and socially. The Project was shortlisted out of 97 Exhibitions throughout the country for the Prestigious Collections Trust National Award - everyone was highly delighted when they gained second place. To hear Inderpal speak with such in depth knowledge, insight and passion was superb.

Our new Archivist Jennifer Highwood gave us a really interesting talk on the *New Poor Laws of 1834* and how they impacted on our rural communities. Most of us knew nothing about this really significant part of our history, if we did it was sketchy and mainly gleaned from watching ‘Who do you think you are’ when so many poor families in the Victorian times ended up in the workhouse. Her professionalism and ability to gather, investigate and create a presentation which held our interest was great. We are urging her to investigate another topic for us next year.

17th December we are looking forward to welcoming back Andy Thomas who will give us his ‘*A Celebratory History of Christmas*’ which will delve into the fascinating background to the festive season. We’ll enjoy mulled wine and mince pies as we wish all our Members and friends a very Happy Christmas and great New Year.

It was such a success last year when we experimented and had a New Year’s Dinner instead of a Christmas one, this has now become a fixture in our Programme and on the 21st January we will gather at The Mill House in Swallowfield to celebrate together.

We are so lucky to have some really interesting people living in our Parish and Graham Stanley is no exception. On the 18th February he will talk about ‘*The Engineering History of King’s Cross and St. Pancras Stations*’ having been very closely involved in the recent rebuilding and refurbishment of both stations – a mammoth responsibility which we know will give us an intriguing insight into the work involved. To find out about our full Programme for the year do visit our Web Site www.slhsoc.org.uk

If you would like to know anything about the History Society please contact either Ken Hussey (Chairman) on 0118 988 3650 or Maggie Uttley (Secretary) on 0118 988 2954 or email kcuttley@aol.com.

Maggie Uttley

Twyford and Ruscombe Local History Society

Our trip to Mapledurham in July proved to be a great success: we had already had a talk by Cory Starling, the miller, so it was particularly interesting to visit the mill there.

In September Mr. Ken Fostekew talked to us about '*The Airforce in Reading in WWI*'. Reading is not perhaps the first place one would have thought of in this connection, but Mr. Fostekew had collected many photos from the RAF Museum in Henley, and he soon put us right on this point. The photos were in black-and-white, but they told us a most remarkable story and showed us that Reading had played a very important part. The School of Military Aeronautics and the School of Technical Training ran from December 1915 until 1919: and during that time from some 10,000 cadets were trained there –engineers, pilots and observers. No safety precautions were taken, and Health and Safety - had they been around at the time - would have had a fit.

As regards pilots, there was an airstrip in Coley Park, but there were no dual-control facilities or simulators. The pilots were simply told what to do, and off they went: and were very lucky to get back safely. A very interesting and revealing talk.

That same month we had a visit to Eltham Palace and Gardens. If anyone had expected to see Henry VIII's childhood home, they would have been disappointed: little of the original palace is left, but the wealthy Courtauld family had built next to it one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in England.

At our October meeting Mr. Mark Stevens spoke to us about '*Victorian Crime and Broadmoor*' and described what the Victorians were trying to do as regards mental health matters. Shortly after a deranged man, James Hadfield, had shot at George III in 1800, new laws were passed creating the status of 'criminal lunatic': and the building of Broadmoor started in 1861, continuing until 1868.

On 27th May 1863 the first patients (eight women) arrived, followed by men in 1864. Eventually 500 patients, from any social status or age group (and from any part of England or Wales) were accommodated. Their routine at Broadmoor was surprisingly relaxed, and a healthy diet was part of the treatment (One cannot help but feel that many a Victorian pauper would have regarded this routine as luxury compared to their own lot in life!). Mr. Steven's detailed and amusing anecdotes gave us a fascinating and interesting evening.

In November one of our own members, Graham Starkie, stood in for a speaker who had had to cancel, and entitled his talk '*Our Osier Past and the Willows and Wetlands Centre in Somerset*'. Our 'Osier Past' referred to Twyford's own past in this industry: and Graham had done a great deal of research into this subject. He also showed us a DVD and some exhibits produced by the Somerset Centre. His audience was fascinated by his talk, and we owe our thanks to Graham for reminding us of Twyford's relatively recent past in such an interesting way.

Our Christmas party will take place on 14th December and we hope that this will round off our year in an enjoyable manner.

Denise Wilkin

Wargrave Local History Society

The Wargrave Local History Society continued its programme of talks in September when David Ward, from the Reading Geological Society described the *Geology of Bowsey Hill*. The soil and rocks beneath us affect the crops that grow, the minerals available for buildings, and so on, and David took us on a 'virtual walk' from Penny's Lane to Crazies Hill, Holly Cross, Bottom Boles Wood and then back to Penny's Lane. David brought a selection of samples of rocks that could be

found in the area around Bowsey Hill, and the audience were able to study those and geological maps after the talk, whilst enjoying their refreshments – including rock cakes, of course!

In October, Roy Sheppard gave an illustrated presentation on the *History of Postcard Collecting* – how it began and how it has changed over the years. Postcards were originally developed as a way to send a brief message without needing a separate envelope and stamp. The very first were produced in Austria, being issued on October 1st 1869. The Post Office in Britain followed exactly a year later, selling cards pre-printed with a ½d stamp. When the cards later were allowed to have illustrations on them, the cards became ‘collectable’. The interest grew in the late Victorian era, and the period from 1902 – 1910 was the ‘Golden Age of Postcards. Roy had brought along many ‘local’ cards, which members studied with great interest.

Anthony Poulton-Smith, the author of a recent book on *Berkshire's Place Names*, explained the origins, meanings, and changes of many village and town names to the November meeting. By studying documents that recorded the place name every 550 – 75 years, up to 1800, when the spelling tended to be phonetic, it was possible to get close to the original meaning of the name. In modern times, the pronunciation or spelling of many had been altered, which is why the pre-1800 records were most helpful. The format of most place names is a suffix saying ‘what it is’, and a prefix describes it. Inhabitants tended not to name their own place – it was ‘the village’ or ‘town’, and would navigate by landmarks rather than street names etc. He concluded by answering many questions on the meanings of various place names – not all local.

December was our traditional Christmas Party, when members enjoyed traditional refreshments and a presentation on ‘Old Fashioned Christmases’ – ie the Victorian and Edwardian era.

The Society has also continued to catalogue its collection of almost 2000 photographs and postcards, including around 350 for the village schools and 200 recording village festivals – a valuable resource for study.

Forthcoming meetings are:-

Tuesday, January 12th Phil Davis will tell us about Families and Aspects of the *History of Hennerton*.

Tuesday, February 9th Ann Griffin will tell us about *The Revd James Austen Leigh of Knowl Hill* - Large, Dark and Handsome and the building of St Peter's Church in Knowl Hill.

Tuesday March 8th will be the Society's Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, April 12th Ann Smith will recount *100 Years of Reading Shopping*

Contact me, Peter Delaney, by visiting our website www.wargravehistory.org.uk/, or on 0118 940 3121 for more information about the Society

Museums and Libraries

Maidenhead Heritage Centre

Skindles is no more. This riverside hotel and restaurant typified Maidenhead as a tourist resort in the late Victorian era. Patronised at various times by Royalty, the Brigade of Guards Boat Club, rebellious Eton College boys, pop stars and Miss Wet T-shirt contestants, the severely fire-damaged wreck of the building has now been demolished.

It began as the Orkney Arms, named after the Earls who lived at nearby Taplow Court, and a popular stop for Bath Road coach passengers. Later it was taken over by William Skindle. He had begun as an ostler, then married a rich innkeeper's daughter. He saw the potential of an adjacent riverside site and decided to build an extension there. Part of it was in Berkshire so he had to get it licensed by Maidenhead council. When asked what the new inn would be called, someone suggested "Why not Skindles?" and so a legend was born. Officers serving in Belgium in the Great War had such fond memories of happy days (and nights) spent there that they opened a branch in Poperinghe.

We wait to see which of the various schemes for luxury apartments will be implemented. Maidenhead Heritage Centre will be mounting a Skindles exhibition later in 2016. We have several items from the hotel in our collection but we would be glad to hear from anyone who could lend items or contribute recollections, especially if scandalous! This will be preceded by a display on "The Changing Face of Maidenhead".

Brian Boulter

Reading Local Studies Library

All the Reading libraries are under threat of cuts or closures, and councillors will be making decisions and asking the public for their views on the options. So please make your views known in the next round of consultations in 2016.

I only had time to visit one place on the Heritage Open Days weekend, so I chose Watlington House, which I had never visited before. The sun shone, the garden was beautifully restored and the volunteers were enthusiastic and knowledgeable. You don't visit a place for years, then suddenly you go twice in a month. I returned for a visit to the Mills Archive which is a national organisation based in Watlington House. If you have any queries about windmills, watermills and milling processes, this is the place to go.

Ann Smith

Reading Museum News

A Sense of Place

until Sunday 8 May 2016

An exhibition of the very best of our twentieth century landscape paintings as well as a chance to see the huge Reading Tapestries by John Piper. There are large and engaging works including paintings by well-known artists such as Eric Ravilious, Carel Weight, Joan Eardley and David Bomberg. The places represented are rural and urban landscapes as far afield as New York and Mexico. The exhibition includes poems by national poets such as Philip Gross and craftworks by local makers in response to the paintings. See the related workshops, events and study days as part of our Art in the Dark Months programme.

Under *Opportunities* are just some of the events that may be of interest to BLHA members. For details of all our forthcoming events and exhibition details please go to www.readingmuseum.org.uk

Matthew Williams

ON TRACK: Reading Railways, Past, Present and Future

Opens 24 May 2016 until 14th January 2017

Jump on board for this incredible journey through an extraordinary story, told with stunning imagery and must-see exhibits. The Railway has been at the heart of Reading life since 1840 when the first passenger train left for London, pulled by a steam-powered engine called Firefly.

The railway linked Reading to the rest of the world and the station soon became a place for connections, brief encounters and new arrivals! Reading's associations with significant figures in the history of the railways including Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Sir Felix Pole feature in the exhibition, along with the long forgotten railway lines that once transported jam from Coley and biscuits from Newtown.

On Track traces the development and impact of Reading's railways, discovering how the station has become one of the busiest in Britain, used by nearly 20 million passengers a year. With its five new platforms and high-tech European style architecture, the new train station also gives us a glimpse of the town's future development.

Brendan Carr

Postscript

Just as we were going to press this came in from Reading Borough Council via The Friends of Reading Abbey:-

We are delighted to share with you that our round 2 application to the HLF for the Reading Abbey Revealed project has been successful.

HLF will contribute £1.77m funding to deliver an exciting programme of events and educational activities alongside an extensive programme of conservation works to the Abbey Ruins and the Abbey Gateway. Site-wide interpretation of the Abbey Quarter will include a new display at Reading Museum.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your enthusiasm and continuous support over the years that has contributed to this successful bid.

Over the next few months we will work closely with the HLF to formalise the grant funding. By March next year we should be able to commence the delivery phase with the procurement and appointment of the contractors for the capital conservation and the interpretation programmes. By the summer conservation work will start at the Abbey Ruins and the Abbey Gateway.

We look forward to working with our partners to deliver these fantastic activity, interpretation and conservation programmes and to ensure that by the end of this £3.15m project, residents and visitors will benefit once again from this iconic heritage site for many generations to come.

Christelle Beaupoux

Opportunities

For Walks, Talks, Visits, Workshops

Stonehenge's Hidden Landscapes

Thursdays 14th and 25th January at Liston Hall, Marlow

Learn more about the surrounds to Stonehenge in these two talks. More information from Tony Burkett tel 07789-005248

Tea and Talks at Two: The Writing on the Wall

Reading Museum Saturday 23 January, 2pm

Meet the author of Two Rivers Press's recent book *The Writing on the Wall* and discover the fascinating world of Reading's Latin inscriptions (with translations, of course!). Peter Kruschwitz talks about the wealth of monuments in Reading over 1,800 years of local and not-so-local history, giving a new, highly entertaining perspective on the chequered history of Berkshire's county town. After the talk enjoy a cream tea in our Palmers Café (pick up your voucher when paying).

Adults and older children £5, pay on the day, booking essential (0118 937 3400)

The Writing on the Wall

Reading Central Library January 25th 7.30 pm

An illustrated talk by Dr Peter Kruschwitz of Reading University on Reading's Latin inscriptions and monuments.

One of a series of talks given at Reading Local Studies Library. All welcome - pay at door £3 for Reading Library members and £4 for others. For tickets email libraryevents@reading.gov.uk, or collect from Reading Central Library.

A Sense of Place

Friends of Reading Museum Annual Lecture:

Saturday 30 January, 2pm – 3pm

Join the Friends to hear guest speaker Sandra Smith discuss the development of British landscape painting. The talk will focus on the twentieth century art and artists represented in our current *A Sense of Place* exhibition. The event will include refreshments.

Adults and older children £12, for further information and to book email linda.fothergill@reading.gov.uk or phone 07751 965334

Reading Guild of Artists: Small Works Sale

Saturday 6 February, 10.30 am – 3.30 pm

Reading Guild of Artists members will be in the Atrium Gallery of Reading Museum with small art works at affordable prices. Everyone is welcome to browse a range of paintings, prints and sculpture which will be for sale – you might find that perfect piece to brighten your life!

Free, drop in

Seeing Disability in the First World War:

Reading Central Library February 8th

An illustrated talk by Dr Kate McDonald of Reading University on the way disabled ex servicemen were treated by the media. - Postcards, posters, stories and adverts (*see above*)

Writing Local History workshop

Reading Central Library February 20th 2pm

Katie Amos, Mike Cooper and Richard Marks lead a workshop on how to publish local history research. (*see above*)

The Trooper Potts VC Memorial

Reading Central Library March 1st 7.30 pm

An illustrated talk by Richard Bennett, Brigadier Tony Verey and Captain Andrew French of the Trooper Potts Memorial Trust about their work to raise money and create the memorial. (*see above*)

Preserving your family memorabilia

BRO Monday 14th March 2 pm

A practical workshop at the Berkshire Record Office run by the Berkshire Family History Society on Monday 14th March 2016 starting at 2pm. - Tickets £10 from Richard Ashberry, 22 Burroway Rd, Langley, Slough SL3 8EN

Smiths Coaches of Reading

Reading Central Library March 17th 7.30 pm

An illustrated talk by Paul Lacey about the coach firm which took so many Reading people to football matches, schools, holidays and outings. Please bring any stories and memorabilia you have of the company. (*see above*)

Archaeology in and around Berkshire

Saturday 2nd April 2016 at St Nicolas Hall, Newbury 10:00 to 16:00

A day-school reporting on current archaeology around Berkshire. Key speaker is Phil Harding of *Time Team* fame. Sites include Eversley Quarry, Silchester, Boxford, Thame, Ridgeway School in Reading with reports from archaeological officers from east and west Berkshire. - Pay at the door £10.

The English Civil War

Reading Central Library April 5th 7.30 pm

Historian and novelist Jemahl Evans talks about researching his book. (*see above*)

Islam in Britain: the interwar years

Reading Central Library April 12th 7.30 pm

Elizabeth Munro of The School of Oriental and African Studies talks about the history of Muslim communities in the 20th century. (*see above*)

History Societies

Arborfield Local History Society: Secretary Tina Kemp, Kenneys Farm, Maggs Green, Arborfield RG2 9JZ [tina@geoffkemp.force.co.uk]

Berkshire Archaeological Society: Andrew Hutt, 19, Challenor Close, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 4UJ [info@berksarch.co.uk]

Berkshire Family History Society: Research Centre, Yeomanry House, Castle Hill, Reading, RG1 7TJ [www.berksfhs.org.uk]

Berkshire Industrial Archaeological Group: Secretary, Peter Trout, 7 West Chiltern, Woodcote, Reading, RG8 OSG or Mr. Weber, [bentwebershops@waitrose.com]

Berkshire Record Society, Secretary Margaret Simons, 80 Reeds Ave, Earley, Reading RG6 5SR [margaretsimons@hotmail.co.uk]

Blewbury Local History Group: Audrey Long, Spring Cottage, Church Road, Blewbury, Oxon, OX11 9PY tel 01235 850427 [audrey.long@waitrose.com]

Bracknell & District Local Historical Society: Geoffrey Moss, 31 Huntsman's Meadow, Ascot, SL5 7PF [MossSandalwood@aol.com]

Burnham Historians: Mary Bentley, 38 Conway Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 0LD tel 01628 665932 [burnhamhistorians@btinternet.com]

Cox Green Local History Group: Pat Barlow, 29 Bissley Drive, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 3UX. tel 01628 823890 weekends only. [alan.barlow2@btinternet.com]

East Garston Local History Society: Jonathan Haw, Goldhill House, Front Street, East Garston, Hungerford, RG17 7EU [jonathanhaw@btopenworld.com]

East Ilsley Local History Society: Sue Burnay, White Hollow, High St, E.Ilsley, Berks RG20 7LE tel 01635 281308 [info@eastilsleyhistory.com] [www.eastilsleyhistory.com]

Eton Wick Local History Group: Teresa Stanton, 35 Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick, Windsor, SL4 6LU tel 01753 860591 [teresa.stanton@talktalk.net] [www.etonwickhistory.co.uk]

Finchampstead Society: Mohan Banerji, 3 Tanglewood, Finchampstead, Berks, RG40 3PR tel 0118 9730479.

Goring Gap Local History Society: Janet Hurst, 6 Nun's Acre, Goring on Thames, Reading, Berks RG8 9BE tel 01491 871022 [goringgaphistory@gmail.com] [www.goringgaphistory.org.uk]

The Hanneys Local History Society: Ann Fewins, 'Lilac Cottage', East Hanney, Wantage, OX12 0HX. tel 01235 868372 [annfewins@beeb.net]

The History of Reading Society: Vicki Chesterman, 7 Norman Road, Caversham RG4 5JN [vickichesterman@yahoo.co.uk] [www.historyofreadingsociety.org.uk]

Hungerford Historical Association: Secretary: Secretary Mark Martin, 23 Fairview Road, Hungerford RG17 0BP. Tel: 01488 682932. [mandm.martin21@btinternet.com] [www.hungerfordhistorical.org.uk]

Longworth & District History Society: Pam Woodward, 22 Cherrytree Close, Southmoor, Abingdon, OX13 5BE. tel 01865 820500 [prwoodward@btinternet.com] [http://www.longworth-district-history-society.org.uk/]

Maidenhead Archaeological & Historical Society: Brian Madge, 11 Boulters Court, Maidenhead, SL6 8TH [bandgmadge@btinternet.com]

Mid Thames Archaeological & Historical Society: Jane Wall, 143 Vine Road, Stoke Poges, SL2 4DH [sec.mtchs@yahoo.co.uk]

Mortimer Local History Group: Mrs Janet Munson, The Laurels, Ravensworth Road, Mortimer, RG7 3UD [munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk]

Newbury District Field Club: Ray Hopgood, 23 Lipscombe Close, Newbury, RG14 5JW [secretary@ndfc.org.uk]

Oxfordshire Family History Society: Wendy Archer, The Old Nursery, Pump Lane, Marlow, SL7 3RS [chairman@ofhs.org.uk]

Pangbourne Heritage Group: Lyn Davies, 1 Hartslock Court, Pangbourne, RG8 7BJ
[lynndaw87@aol.com]

Project Purley: Catherine Sampson, 32 Waterside Drive, Purley on Thames, Berks, RG8 8AQ
tel 0118 9422 255 [chairman@project-purley.eu] [www.project-purley.eu]

Sandhurst Historical Society: Janice Burlton, 16 Scotland Hill, Sandhurst, Berks GU47 8JR tel
01252 872504 [janiceburlton@hotmail.co.uk] [www.sandhurst-historical-society.org]

Shinfield & District Local History Society: Ann Young, 'Roselyn', School Green, Shinfield,
Reading, Berks RG2 9EH. tel 0118 9882120. Reporter George Taylor [georgetaylor29@bt-
internet.com]

Sonning & Sonning Eye History Society: Diana Coulter, Red House Cottage, Pearson Road,
Sonning, Berks, RG4 6UF tel 0118 9692132 [diana.coulter@orange.net]

Stanford in the Vale & District Local History Society: Philip Morris, 71 Van Diemens,
Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 8HW tel 01367 710285

Swallowfield Local History Society: Ken Hussey, Kimberley, Swallowfield RG7 1QX
[www.slhsoc.org.uk]

Tadley Local History Society: 5 Church Road, Pamber Heath, Tadley, Hampshire, RG26 3DP
[www.tadshistory.com]

Thatcham Historical Society: Alf Wheeler, 22 Park Lane, Thatcham, RG18 3PJ 01635 863536
[enquiries@thatchamhistoricalsociety.org.uk] [www.thatchamhistoricalsociety.org.uk]

Theale Local History Society: Graham Reeves, 52 Parkers Corner, Englefield, RG7 5JR
[thealehistory@aol.com]

Twyford & Ruscombe Local History Society: Audrey Curtis, 39 New Road, Ruscombe RG10
9LN tel 0118 9343260 [audreycurt@googlemail.com] reporter Denise Wilkin

Wargrave Local History Society: Peter Delaney, 6 East View Close, Wargrave, Berks, RG10
8BJ tel 0118 9403121 [secretary@wargravehistory.co.uk] [www.wargravehistory.org.uk]

Windsor Local History Group: Sue Ashley, 49 York Avenue, Windsor, SL4 3PA [nutritionsas-
hley@hotmail.com] [www.windsorhistory.org.uk]

Friends of Windsor and Royal Borough Museum: Malcolm Lock, 1 Duncannon Crescent,
Windsor, SL4 4YP [malcolmlock@hotmail.com] [www.windsormuseumappeal.org.uk]

Wokingham History Group: Trevor Ottlewski, Uani, Holly Bush Ride, Wokingham, Berks tel
01344 775920.

Would you all please check these entries and let us know of any changes. The entry should show:-

The name, postal address and e-mail address for formal correspondence with the society and optionally a telephone contact number.

Your website url (if you have one)

Optionally the name and e-mail address of the person who will send in reports of your society's activities (if different from official contact)

e-mail changes and corrections to membership@blha.org.uk

Archives, Libraries & Museums

Abingdon Library: The Charter, Abingdon, OX14 3LY. tel 01235 520374
[abingdon_library@yahoo.co.uk]

Allen County Public Library: Genealogy, PO Box 2270, Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA tel 001 468 012270 [www.genealogycenter.org]

Berkshire Record Office: 9 Coley Avenue, Reading, RG1 6AF tel 0118 901 5132
[www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk] [arch@reading.gov.uk]

Bracknell Library Local Studies: Hue Lewis, Town Square, Bracknell, RG12 1BH. tel 01344 352400 [bracknell.library@bracknell-forest.gov.uk]

Centre for Oxfordshire Studies: Helen Drury, Central Library, Westgate, Oxford, OX1 1DJ tel 01865 815741 [enquiries@oxst.demon.uk]

Eton College Library: Eton College, Windsor, SL4 6DB [archivist@etoncollege.org.uk]

Guildhall Library: Andrew Harvey, Principal Library Assistant Printed Books, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH. [Andrew.Harvey@cityoflondon.gov.uk]
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhalllibrary]

Hungerford Virtual Museum: – [www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk]

Maidenhead Heritage Trust: Fran Edwards, 18 Park Street, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 1SL.
[administration@mhc1.demon.co.uk]

Maidenhead & Windsor Local Studies Library: Chris Atkins, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1QU tel 01628 796981 [chris.atkins@rbwm.gov.uk]

Newbury Reference Library: Fiona Davies, Newbury Central Library, The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 5AU tel 01635 519900

Reading Central Library: Local Studies Librarian, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BQ tel 0118 9015965

Reading Museum Services: The Curator, Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1QH. tel 0118 9399800 [www.readingmuseum.org.uk]

Reading University Library: Val Davis, Library Assistant, PO Box 223, Whiteknights, RG6 6AE. tel 0118 378 8785 [v.j.davis@reading.ac.uk]

Museum of English Rural Life: The University of Reading, Redlands Road, Reading, RG1 5EX. tel 0118 378 8660 fax: 0118 378 5632 [merl@reading.ac.uk] [www.merl.org.uk]

Windsor & Royal Borough Museum: The Guildhall, Windsor, SL4 1LR. tel 01628 796846
[museum.collections@rbwm.gov.uk] [www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/museum_index.htm]

Slough Library Local Studies: Slough Library, High Street, Slough, SL1 1EA. tel 01753 787511
[library@slough.gov.uk] [www.slough.gov.uk/libraries]

Slough Museum: The Curve, William Street, Slough, SL1 1XY tel 01753 526422
[info@sloughmuseum.co.uk]

Vale & Downland Museum: Dorothy Burrows, Church Street, Wantage, OX12 8BL tel 01235-771447 [vale.downland@gmail.com] [www.wantage-museum.com]

West Berkshire Museum: The Wharf, Newbury, RG14 4AU [museum@westberks.gov.uk]

Wokingham Library Local Studies: Denmark Street, Wokingham, RG40 2BB. tel 0118 9781368

Berkshire Local History Association

Registered Charity 1097355

President: **Professor E J T Collins**

Vice-Presidents:- **Brian Boulter, Joan Dils,
Dr Margaret Yates**

Officers

Chairman **David Cliffe**

1 Priest Hill, Caversham, Reading RG4 7RZ
tel: 0118-948-3354,
e-mail chairman@blha.org.uk

Treasurer **Dr David Lewis ACA**

5 Gloucester Place, Windsor, Berks SL4 2AJ
tel 01753-864935,
e-mail treasurer @blha.org.uk

Secretary **Ann McCormack**

4 Silwood Close, Ascot, Berks SL5 7DX
e-mail secretary@blha.org.uk

Committee Members

Dr Jonathan Brown (Journal Editor)

Sue Burnay (Berkshire Bibliography)

John Chapman (Newsletter Editor)

Amanda Harvey (Membership Secretary)

Dave Osborne (Web Designer)

Dr Margaret Simons (Newsletter Distributor)

Dr Jameson Wooders

Elias Kupfermann

Membership

Berkshire Local History Association exists to provide a meeting place for all those interested in the history and heritage of the Royal County of Berkshire. We cover the areas of Berkshire both before and after the 1974 review of local government. We are a registered charity.

We have three classes of membership

Institutional - for institutions, including libraries, archives and museums

Society - for local history and similar societies

Individual - for individual or couples living at the same address

We publish a **Journal** (Berkshire Old and New) once a year containing detailed articles on Berkshire's past - all members get one copy

We publish a **Newsletter** three times a year in January, May and September and you can opt for a hard copy version by post or an electronic version by e-mail

We hold an **Annual General Meeting** in Spring each year with an exhibition and followed by a **Presidential Lecture**

We usually hold a **Day School** in the autumn with a number of eminent speakers

We organise **day trips** to visit archives and places of interest (usually with privileged access to material)

We award a number of **prizes** to authors of articles and students at the University.

We offer **grants** to assist authors to publish their results.

We maintain a **website** to keep you up-to-date with society activities [www.blha.org.uk]

We maintain a **Bibliography** of publications held in our public libraries relating to the history of Berkshire

We work with a variety of organisations to protect and document the heritage of Berkshire

Membership fees

The rates for 2014 are:-

	version of newsletter		no of copies	
	electronic	hard copy	Journal	Newsletter
Institutional	£18.00	£20.00	2	3
Society	£18.00	£20.00	2	3
Individual and Family	£9.00.	£12.00	1	1

A surcharge of £2 will also be levied on those who opt to pay by cheque.

Applications for membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary membership@blha.org.uk

Contents

Chairman's Corner	1	<i>Society News</i>	
From the Editor	3	Berkshire Archaeological	13
The Annual General Meeting 2016	3	Goring Gap	13
<i>Miscellanea</i>		Newbury	14
Luke Over MBE	4	Pangbourne	14
Palmyra		Purley	15
4		Reading	15
Berks Historic Environment Forum	5	Shinfield	17
Railway Memorabilia	5	Swallowfield	18
St James' Newbury	6	Twyford & Ruscombe	19
Spotlight on Eton Wick LHS	7	Wargrave	19
<i>New Books and Reviews</i>		<i>Museums and Libraries</i>	
Reading 1800-Present day	8	Maidenhead Heritage Centre	21
Register of John Blyth		Reading Local Studies Library	21
9		Reading Museum	21
<i>Great War Centenary</i>	9	Opportunities	23
<i>Articles</i>		<i>Contact details</i>	
Lloyds Bank Pangbourne	10	History Societies	25
A Centenary Celebration	11	Archives, Libraries & Museums	27
		Your Committee	28
		BLHA Membership	29

Forthcoming Events

see also Opportunities Pages 23-24

We do not list meetings of our local societies, but see our website www.blha.org.uk

12th March **2016 BLHA AGM** at Southmoor (see page 3)

2nd April **Archaeology Day-School** at Newbury (see page 24)

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter is due to be published in May 2016.

The DEADLINE for copy is 15th April 2016 - preferably we would like to have it much earlier.